

The Russian tactic is primitive. They burn down and destroy everything they see. They sent thugs to the front lines. They sent convicts to the war. They threw everything against us—similar to the other tyranny, which is in the Battle of the Bulge. They threw everything it had against the free world, just like the brave American soldiers which held their lines and fought back Hitler's forces during the Christmas of 1944. Brave Ukrainian soldiers are doing the same to Putin's forces this Christmas. Ukraine holds its lines and will never surrender.

Here is the front line, the tyranny, which has no lack of cruelty against the lives of free people. Your support is crucial, not just to stand in such fights, but to get to the turning point; to win on the battlefield.

We have artillery. Yes. Thank you. We have it. Is it enough? Honestly, not really. To ensure Bakhmut is not just a stronghold that holds back the Russian Army, but for the Russian Army to completely pull out, more cannons and shells are needed. If so, just like the Battle of Saratoga, the fight for Bakhmut will change the trajectory of our war for independence and for freedom.

If your patriots stop the Russian terror against our cities, it will let Ukrainian patriots work to the full to defend our freedom. When Russia cannot reach our cities by its artillery, it tries to destroy them with missile attacks. More than that, Russia found an ally in its genocidal policy—Iran.

Iranian deadly drones, sent to Russia in hundreds, became a threat to our critical infrastructure. That is how one terrorist found the other. It is just a matter of time when they will strike against your other allies if we do not stop them now. We must do it.

I believe there should be no taboos between us in our alliance. Ukraine never asked the American soldiers to fight on our land instead of us. I assure you that Ukrainian soldiers can perfectly operate American tanks and planes themselves.

Financial assistance is also critically important. I would like to thank you—thank you very much—thank you for both financial packages you have already provided us with and the ones you may be willing to decide on. Your money is not charity. It is an investment in the global security and democracy that we handle in the most responsible way.

Russia could stop its aggression if it wanted to, but you can speed up our victory. I know it. And it will prove to any potential aggressor that no one can succeed in breaking national borders—no one—committing atrocities, and reigning over people against their will. It would be naive to wait for steps towards peace from Russia, which enjoys being a terrorist state. Russians are still poisoned by the Kremlin.

The restoration of international legal order is our joint task. We need peace. Yes, Ukraine has already offered pro-

posals, which I just discussed with President Biden, our peace formula; ten points, which should and must be implemented for our joint security, guaranteed for decades ahead, and the summit, which can be held.

I am glad to say that President Biden supported our peace initiative today. Each of you, ladies and gentlemen, can assist in the implementation to ensure that America's leadership remains solid, bicameral, and bipartisan. Thank you.

You can strengthen sanctions to make Russia feel how ruinous its aggression truly is. It is in your power to help us bring to justice everyone who started this unprovoked and criminal war. Let's do it.

Let the terrorist state be held responsible for its terror and aggression, and compensate all losses done by this war. Let the world see that the United States are here.

Ladies and gentlemen, Americans, in 2 days we will celebrate Christmas. Maybe candlelit, not because it is more romantic, no, but because there will be no electricity. Millions won't have either heating or running water. All of this will be the result of Russian missile and drone attacks on our energy infrastructure. But we do not complain.

We do not judge and compare whose life is easier. Your well-being is the product of your national security, the result of your struggle for independence and your many victories. We, Ukrainians, will also go through our war of independence and freedom with dignity and success.

We will celebrate Christmas, and even if there is no electricity, the light of our faith in ourselves will not be put out. If Russian missiles attack us, we will do our best to protect ourselves. If they attack us with Iranian drones and our people will have to go to bomb shelters on Christmas Eve, Ukrainians will still sit down at the holiday table and cheer up each other. And we don't have to know everyone's wish as we know that all of us, millions of Ukrainians wish the same—victory. Only victory.

We have already built a strong Ukraine with strong people, strong Army, and strong institutions, together with you. We develop strong security guarantees for our country and for entire Europe and the world together with you. Also, together with you, we will put in place everyone who will defy freedom. "Put in." This will be the basis to protect democracy in Europe and the world over.

Now, at Christmastime, I want to thank you, all of you. I thank every American family which cherishes the warmth of its home and wishes the same warmth to other people.

I thank President Biden and both parties at the Senate and the House for your invaluable assistance.

I thank your cities and your citizens who supported Ukraine this year, who hosted our Ukrainians, our people who

waved our national flags, who acted to help us.

Thank you all from everyone who is now at the front line and from everyone who is awaiting victory.

Standing here today, I recall the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which I think is so good for this moment: "The American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."

□ 2000

The Ukrainian people will win, too. Absolutely. I know that everything depends on us, on Ukrainian Armed Forces. Yet, so much depends on the world. So much in the world depends on you.

When I was in Bakhmut yesterday, our heroes gave me the flag, the battle flag, the flag of those who defend Ukraine, Europe, and the world at the cost of their lives. They asked me to bring this flag to you, to the U.S. Congress, to Members of the House of Representatives and Senators, whose decisions can save millions of people.

So, let these decisions be taken. Let this flag stay with you, ladies and gentlemen. This flag is a symbol of our victory in this war. We stand, we fight, and we will win because we are united; Ukraine, America, and the entire free world.

Just one thing, if I can, the last thing—thank you so much—may God protect our brave troops and citizens. May God forever bless the United States of America. Merry Christmas and happy victorious New Year.

"Sláva Ukraini!" "Glory to Ukraine!"

Thank you so much.

The SPEAKER. This flag was flown over the Capitol today in honor of the President's visit.

#### JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, (at 8 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the chair.

□ 2035

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARSON) at 8 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.